

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for treating a condition characterized by activation of the inflammatory cytokine cascade, comprising administering an effective amount of an antagonist or inhibitor of HMG1.
2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising administering a second agent in
10 combination with the antagonist or inhibitor of HMG1, wherein the second agent is an antagonist of an early sepsis mediator.
3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the second agent is an antagonist of a cytokine selected from the group consisting of TNF, IL-1 α , IL-1 β , MIF and IL-6.
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4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the second agent is an antibody to TNF or an IL-1 receptor antagonist (IL-1ra).
5. A method for treating sepsis and related conditions involving activation of the inflammatory cytokine cascade, comprising administering an effective amount
20 of an antagonist or inhibitor of HMG1.
6. The method of Claim 5 further comprising administering a second agent in combination with the antagonist or inhibitor of HMG1, wherein the second
25 agent is an antagonist of an early sepsis mediator.
7. The method of Claim 6 wherein the second agent is an antagonist of a cytokine selected from the group consisting of TNF, IL-1 α , IL-1 β , MIF and IL-6.

8. The method of Claim 7 wherein the second agent is an antibody to TNF or an IL-1 receptor antagonist (IL-1ra).
- 5 9. A method for treating rheumatoid arthritis, comprising administering an effective amount of an antagonist or inhibitor HMG1.
- 10 10. The method of Claim 9 further comprising administering a second agent in combination with the HMG1 antagonist, wherein the second agent is an antagonist of an early sepsis mediator.
- 11 11. The method of Claim 10 wherein the second agent is an antagonist of a cytokine selected from the group consisting of TNF, IL-1 α , IL-1 β , MIF and IL-6.
- 15 12. The method of Claim 11 wherein the second agent is an antibody to TNF or an IL-1 receptor antagonist (IL-1ra).